September 5, 1988. The President of the dissolved Naya Sikkim Party had reportedly told the Press (Siliguri — August 5, 1988) that his party would start a violent movement in Sikkim in September, 1988 to achieve party's demand in respect of reservation of seats for the Nepalese in the State Assembly. According to the other leaders and executive members, the party had no such agitational programme and the announcement was made without their knowledge or consent. The situation is under watch.

MNF links with gueri'la organisations abroad

1662. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that M.N.F. is still maintaining links with guerilla organisations abroad even after the accord of 1986; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Nothing specific has come to notice indicating links between M.N.F. and guerilla organisations abroad.

(b) Does not arise.

Easing of Visa Norms

1663. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ease the Visa norms so as to remove the impediments in travels for promoting tourism in the country; and

(b) which are the countries for which Visa conditions are subject to restrictions for tourists stating the reactions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Multiple entry Tourist Visas are issued by Indian Missions and Posts abroad on application for a period of 90 days. Such visas are extendable for a further period of 90 days in India. No further liberalisation is considered necessary.

(b) Countries with which we do not have diplomatic relations, countries which we do not recognize or on the basis of reciprocity and mutual Agreement.

Pension of Freedom Fighters of Pondicherry

1664 SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the freedom fighters of Pondicherry, who fought for the freedom of that region, have requested the Central Government to consider their case of grant of freedom fighters' pension to them;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Union Territory of Pondicherry Administration has also recommended their cases for grant of such pension; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In these cases, pension was claimed on the basis of self-exile which is not recognised under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980. Hence freedom fighters pension could not be sanctioned to them.